

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Withdrawn) A method of inspecting a print image that is sequentially being processed by a plurality of processing steps, comprising:

(a) preparing first and second-plate-image-inspection RIP data under same raster image processing (RIP) conditions, based on first and second print image data prepared in different processing steps; and

(b) comparing the first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data to detect differences in the first and second print image data.

2. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second print image data represent an image in which at least one print page is laid out on a mount area in accordance with specified page layout conditions, and the step (a) comprises:

extracting an image region corresponding to a same print page from each print image data, based on the page layout conditions specified for each print image data.

3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2, wherein

the step of extracting the image region comprises rotating the image region of at least one of the first and second print image data so that layout angles of the same print pages for the first and second print image data become equal to each other.

4. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein

the processing in the plurality of processing steps for the print image data is executed in accordance with a job ticket, which stipulates processing conditions for each processing step.

5. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 4, wherein

the job ticket includes a specification as to whether or not an alert display will be performed when a result of the comparison in the step (b) indicates an image mismatch.

6. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5, wherein

the job ticket includes selection of one among a plurality of mismatch modes including a first mismatch mode for performing an alert display when the result of the comparison indicates an image mismatch, and a second mismatch mode for stopping processing immediately thereafter when the result of the comparison indicates an image mismatch.

7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5, wherein

the alert display includes an instruction section for allowing a user to instruct whether or not subsequent processing will continue.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of inspecting a print image that is sequentially being processed by a plurality of processing steps, comprising:

(a) preparing a first RIP data by executing RIP processing on a first print image data according to first RIP processing conditions;

(b) preparing a second RIP data by executing RIP processing, in accordance with second RIP processing conditions that differ from the first RIP processing conditions, on a second print image data that is obtained by carrying out another prepress processing to the first print image data;

(c) preparing first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data by executing RIP processing on the first and second print image data, respectively, in accordance with standard RIP processing conditions; and

(d) comparing the first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data to detect differences between the first and second print image data.

9. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8, wherein  
the standard RIP processing conditions include, as a parameter, a resolution lower than a resolution in a final plate image outputting step.

10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8, wherein  
each of the first and second print image data represent an image in which at least one print page is laid out on a mount area in accordance with specified page layout conditions, and  
the step (c) comprises:

extracting an image region corresponding to a same print page from each print image data, based on the page layout conditions specified for each print image data.

11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, wherein

the step of extracting the image region comprises rotating the image region of at least one of the first and second print image data so that layout angles of the same print pages for the first and second print image data become equal to each other.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of inspecting a print image that is sequentially being processed in a printing prepress system by a plurality of sequential prepress processing steps, comprising:

(a) preparing a first RIP data by executing RIP processing on a first print image data according to first RIP processing conditions;

(b) preparing a second RIP data by executing RIP processing, in accordance with second RIP processing conditions that differ from the first RIP processing conditions, on a second print image data obtained by carrying out another prepress processing to the first print image data, the another prepress processing step being one of the sequential prepress processing steps excluding correction after proofreading;

(c) preparing a first plate-image-inspection RIP data in accordance with standard RIP processing conditions by converting the first RIP data, using a first profile representing relationship between the standard RIP processing conditions and the first RIP processing conditions;

(d) preparing a second plate-image-inspection RIP data in accordance with the standard RIP processing conditions by converting the second RIP data, using a second profile representing relationship between the standard RIP processing conditions and the second RIP processing conditions; and

(e) comparing the first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data to detect differences between the first and second print image data.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein  
the standard RIP processing conditions include, as a parameter, a resolution lower than a resolution in a final plate image outputting step.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein  
each of the first and second print image data represent an image in which at least one print page is laid out on a mount area in accordance with specified page layout conditions, and  
each of the steps (c) and (d) comprises:  
extracting an image region corresponding to a same print page from each print image data, based on the page layout conditions specified for each print image data.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein  
the step of extracting the image region comprises rotating the image region of at least one of the first and second print image data so that layout angles of the same print page [[pages]] for the first and second print image data become equal to each other.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of inspecting a print image that is sequentially being processed by a plurality of processing steps, comprising:

(a) preparing a first RIP data by executing RIP processing on a first print image data according to first RIP processing conditions;

(b) preparing a second RIP data by executing RIP processing, in accordance with second RIP processing conditions that differ from the first RIP processing conditions, on a second print image data obtained by carrying out another prepress processing to the first print image data;

(c) preparing first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data in accordance with same RIP processing conditions by converting at least one of the first and second RIP data, based on a profile representing relationship between the first and second RIP processing conditions; and

(d) comparing the first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data to detect differences between the first and second print image data.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 16, wherein

each of the first and second print image data represent an image in which at least one print page is laid out on a mount area in accordance with specified page layout conditions, and the step (c) comprises:

extracting an image region corresponding to a same print page from each of the first and second RIP data, based on the page layout conditions specified for each print image data.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 17, wherein

the step of extracting the image region comprises rotating the image region of at least one of the first and second RIP data so that layout angles of the same print pages for the first and second RIP data become equal to each other.

19. (Withdrawn) A prepress system capable of executing a plate image inspection for inspecting a print image that is sequentially being processed by a plurality of processing steps, A prepress system comprising:

an RIP processor for preparing first and second-plate-image-inspection RIP data under same RIP conditions, based on first and second print image data prepared in different processing steps; and

a comparator for comparing the first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data to detect differences in the first and second print image data.

20. (Withdrawn) A prepress system according to claim 19, wherein

each of the first and second print image data represent an image in which at least one print page is laid out on a mount area in accordance with specified page layout conditions, and

the prepress system further comprises:

an image region extracting section for extracting an image region corresponding to a same print page from each print image data, based on the page layout conditions specified for each print image data.

21. (Withdrawn) A prepress system according to claim 20, wherein

the image region extracting section is configured to rotate the image region of at least one of the first and second print image data so that layout angles of the same print pages for the first and second print image data become equal to each other.

22. (Withdrawn) A prepress system according to claim 19, wherein

the processing in the plurality of processing steps for the print image data is executed in accordance with a job ticket, which stipulates processing conditions for each processing step.

23. (Withdrawn) A prepress system according to claim 22, wherein

the job ticket includes a specification as to whether or not an alert display will be performed when a result of the comparison in the step (b) indicates an image mismatch.

24. (Withdrawn) A prepress system according to claim 23, wherein

the job ticket includes selection of one among a plurality of mismatch modes including a first mismatch mode for performing an alert display when the result of the comparison indicates an image mismatch, and a second mismatch mode for stopping processing immediately thereafter when the result of the comparison indicates an image mismatch.

25. (Withdrawn) A prepress system according to claim 23, wherein

the alert display includes an instruction section for allowing a user to instruct whether or not subsequent processing will continue.



26. (Withdrawn) A prepress system capable of executing a plate image inspection for inspecting a print image that is sequentially being processed by a plurality of processing steps, the prepress system comprising:

a first RIP processor for preparing a first RIP data by executing RIP processing on a first print image data according to first RIP processing conditions;

a second RIP processor for preparing a second RIP data by executing RIP processing, in accordance with second RIP processing conditions that differ from the first RIP processing conditions, on a second print image data that is obtained by carrying out another prepress processing to the first print image data;

a third RIP processor for preparing first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data by executing RIP processing on the first and second print image data, respectively, in accordance with standard RIP processing conditions; and

a comparator for comparing the first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data to detect differences between the first and second print image data.

27. (Withdrawn) A prepress system according to claim 26, wherein

the standard RIP processing conditions include, as a parameter, a resolution lower than a resolution in a final plate image outputting step.

28. (Withdrawn) A prepress system according to claim 26, wherein

each of the first and second print image data represent an image in which at least one print page is laid out on a mount area in accordance with specified page layout conditions, and the prepress system further comprises:

an image region extracting section for extracting an image region corresponding to a same print page from each print image data, based on the page layout conditions specified for each print image data.

29. (Withdrawn) A prepress system according to claim 28, wherein

the image region extracting section is configured to rotate the image region of at least one of the first and second print image data so that layout angles of the same print pages for the first and second print image data become equal to each other.

30. (Currently Amended) A prepress system capable of executing a plate image inspection for inspecting a print image that is sequentially being processed by a plurality of sequential prepress processing steps, the prepress system comprising:

a first RIP processor for preparing a first RIP data by executing RIP processing on a first print image data according to first RIP processing conditions;

a second RIP processor for preparing a second RIP data by executing RIP processing, in accordance with second RIP processing conditions that differ from the first RIP processing conditions, on a second print image data obtained by carrying out another prepress processing to the first print image data, the another prepress processing step being one of the sequential prepress processing steps excluding correction after proofreading;

a converter for preparing a first plate-image-inspection RIP data in accordance with standard RIP processing conditions by converting the first RIP data, using a first profile representing relationship between the standard RIP processing conditions and the first RIP

processing conditions, and for preparing a second plate-image-inspection RIP data in accordance with the standard RIP processing conditions by converting the second RIP data, using a second profile representing relationship between the standard RIP processing conditions and the second RIP processing conditions; and

a comparator for comparing the first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data to detect differences between the first and second print image data.

31. (Original) A prepress system according to claim 30, wherein

the standard RIP processing conditions include, as a parameter, a resolution lower than a resolution in a final plate image outputting step.

32. (Original) A prepress system according to claim 30, wherein

each of the first and second print image data represent an image in which at least one print page is laid out on a mount area in accordance with specified page layout conditions, and the prepress system further comprises:

an image region extracting section for extracting an image region corresponding to a same print page from each print image data, based on the page layout conditions specified for each print image data.

33. (Currently Amended) A prepress system according to claim 32, wherein

the image region extracting section is configured to rotate the image region of at least one of the first and second print image data so that layout angles of the same print page [[pages]] for the first and second print image data become equal to each other.

34. (Withdrawn) A prepress system capable of executing a plate image inspection for inspecting a print image that is sequentially being processed by a plurality of processing steps, the prepress system comprising:

a first RIP processor for preparing a first RIP data by executing RIP processing on a first print image data according to first RIP processing conditions;

a second RIP processor for preparing a second RIP data by executing RIP processing, in accordance with second RIP processing conditions that differ from the first RIP processing conditions, on a second print image data obtained by carrying out another prepress processing to the first print image data;

a converter for preparing first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data in accordance with same RIP processing conditions by converting at least one of the first and second RIP data, based on a profile representing relationship between the first and second RIP processing conditions; and

a comparator for comparing the first and second plate-image-inspection RIP data to detect differences between the first and second print image data.

35. (Withdrawn) A prepress system according to claim 34, wherein  
each of the first and second print image data represent an image in which at least one print page is laid out on a mount area in accordance with specified page layout conditions, and  
the prepress system further comprises:

an image region extracting section for extracting an image region corresponding to a same print page from each of the first and second RIP data, based on the page layout conditions specified for each print image data.

36. (Withdrawn) A prepress system according to claim 35, wherein

the image region extracting section is configured to rotate the image region of at least one of the first and second RIP data so that layout angles of the same print pages for the first and second RIP data become equal to each other.